

Phil 107: 19th Century Philosophy
Winter, 2020

Tuesday and Thursday, 5:20–6:55pm, Cowell Acad. 113

Contact Information

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Office hours: Tues. 11am–1pm

Course Description

The nineteenth century was a hundred years long, and during that time a lot of things happened in philosophy. In this course we will trace a particular strand that runs through Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, and Friedrich Nietzsche.¹ Despite great differences in style and philosophical views, we will see certain themes that run throughout, including, among others: freedom of will as involving a self that can stand outside and above itself; nature as a symbol of spirit; poetry as a mediator between the self and nature; and questions about the value of morality in relation to something higher than morality. These themes are characteristically nineteenth-century (for example, versions of them can also be found in Hegel and Kierkegaard), although certainly not all nineteenth century philosophers thought along these lines.

¹Coleridge was heavily influenced by (and in fact plagiarized extensively from!) Schelling; Coleridge and Schelling were both important influences on the New England Transcendentalist movement in which Emerson and Fuller were key participants; and Nietzsche was greatly impressed by Emerson, whose essays he read in German translation.

Course Requirements

Two short essays, 2–3 pages each, due Wednesday, January 29, and Wednesday, March 4 (each worth 15% of the grade). (For the first essay, there will be a choice of essay questions about Schelling; for the second, a choice of essay questions about Coleridge. The third essay, about Emerson and/or Fuller, will be more free-form, but there will be a list of suggested topics.) One final paper, 4–6 pages, due Wednesday, March 18 (worth 55% of the grade).

Papers are due as an attachment via the “Assignments” tool on Canvas. The assignments will be available online and there will be links to them from the online version of this syllabus as well as from my main course page.

Note that all assignments are due by 11:55pm on the due date.

You can find answers to some commonly asked questions about my assignments and grading in my FAQ (<https://people.ucsc.edu/~abestone/courses/faq.html>).

Attendance at lecture is *strongly* encouraged, but it is not a course requirement and I will not be taking attendance.

Texts

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, tr. R.J. Hollingdale (Penguin Classics, 1961) (ISBN: 0140441182).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Untimely Meditations*, ed. Daniel Breazdale (Cambridge University Press; 2nd ed., 1997) (ISBN: 978-0521585842).

F.W.J. Schelling, *System of Transcendental Idealism (1800)*, tr. Peter Heath (University of Virginia Press, 1978) (ISBN: 978-0813914589).

The above texts have been ordered at the Bay Tree Bookstore, and are also, along with some other relevant books, on reserve at McHenry (except that *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* is currently on reserve in a different translation). Readings from Coleridge, Emerson, and Fuller will be available online.

Readings

Tuesday, January 7: (no reading, first class).

Thursday, January 9: Schelling, *System*: Foreword, Introduction, and Part One (pp. 1–33).

Tuesday, January 14: Schelling, *System*: Part Two; Part Three, Introductory, I, and II, beginning of First Epoch (pp. 34–60).

Thursday, January 16: Schelling, *System*: Part Three, II, Third Epoch; Part Four, beginning, up until (but not including) “Additional Remarks” (pp. 134–171).

Tuesday, January 21: Schelling *System*: Part Four, “Additional Remarks” and beginning of Problem E; Part Four, IIIIF; Part Five; Part Six (pp. 171–7 and 212–236).

Thursday, January 23: Coleridge, *The Friend* (1818), Volume III, first part: Essays IV, V, and X (on the Principles of Method).

Tuesday, January 28: Coleridge, *The Friend* (1818), Volume III, first part: Essay XI (on the Principles of Method); *Aids to Reflection* (1825): Advertisement; Preface; Introductory Aphorisms I–XI, XX–XXIV, XXX–XXXII; Prudential Aphorisms VI–VII; Reflections Respecting Morality first part (through “lays claim to permanence only under the form of DUTY”); Moral and Religious Aphorisms, beginning of Aphorism VI (through “any positive Notion or Insight”), and Aphorisms XXXVI and XLIII (pp. iii–xii, 1–6, 13–18, 26–7, 35–7, 51–6, 66–74, 111–12, 118–19).

Wednesday, January 29: **First short essay due.**

Thursday, January 30: Coleridge, *Aids to Reflection* (1825): Elements of Religious Philosophy; Aphorisms on That Which Is Indeed Spiritual Religion, Aphorisms VI and VIII, beginning of Comment to Aphorism X (through “yet it is the *condition*, the *sine quá non*” of a *Free-will*”), and

Aphorisms XI and XV (pp. 129–40, 188–9, 200–228, 256–62, 287–8, 294–6).

Tuesday, February 4: Emerson, “Self-Reliance” and “Friendship.”

Thursday, February 6: Emerson, “The Poet.”

Tuesday, February 11: **no class** due to strike.

Thursday, February 13: Emerson, “Experience” (you may also want to read “Fate” and “Power.”, although those are no longer required readings.)

Tuesday, February 18: Fuller, “The Great Lawsuit: Man vs. Men, Woman vs. Women.”

Thursday, February 20: Fuller, “St. Valentine’s Day,” “American Literature” (beginning, through “on a great scale,” p. 126), “The Fourth of July,” “The Rich Man,” “The Poor Man,” “The Magnolia of Lake Pontchartrain.”

Tuesday, February 25: Fuller, “A Drive through the Country near Boston”; “Festus” (beginning through p. 237, “extracts,” and p. 254, “The quire is almost filled,” through end); “Sundry Glosses on Poetic Texts.”

Thursday, February 27: Nietzsche, “On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life,” Foreword and §§1–3, 5–6 (*Untimely Meditations*, pp. 59–77 and 83–95).

Tuesday, March 3: Nietzsche, “Schopenhauer as Educator” §§1–2 (pp. 127–36); §§4–5 (pp. 146–161); from §6, the description of the scholar (p. 169, beginning “Science is related to wisdom”—through p. 174, ending “cannot be found in him either.”); §8 (pp. 182–94).

Wednesday, March 4: **Second short essay due.**

Thursday, March 5: Nietzsche, *Zarathustra*, Part One (pp. 39–106).

Tuesday, March 10: Nietzsche, *Zarathustra*, Part Two (pp. 107–172).

Thursday, March 12: Nietzsche, *Zarathustra*, Part Three (pp. 173–244).

Wednesday, March 18: **Final paper due.**